

Pajaroello Tick Danger to Fire Fighters, Hunters, If Untreated

K. H. Sutherland, M.D.
County Health Officer

Southern California has very few dangerous ticks, but every so often someone gets bitten by a pajaroello, usually a hunter or fire fighter, and reports of the incident eventually reach health authorities. Although bite of this tick is not poisonous, the wound may become serious if the victim is allergic to the tick's salivary fluid. Moreover, a secondary infection may ensue, particularly in those cases where first aid is inadequate or lacking.

Pajaroello ticks are native to Mexico, but some 60 years ago they were observed in the mountainous regions of Central California and by 1941 had also been noted in certain areas within Los Angeles County, specifically in the foothills around Newhall and Malibu.

in the Big Pines area of the Los Angeles National Forest at an elevation of approximately 8200 feet. Previous to this time, the ticks had not been seen much above the 6000 foot level.

During the early nineteen-forties, pajaroellos were found only in the litter that accumulates under oak trees. In the course of recent surveys, however, they were also observed under pines and around chaparral plants — low-growing shrubs indigenous to the local foothills. The ticks have remained so few in number that their presence is not considered significant.

THE AVERAGE pajaroello tick is about one-fourth of an inch long but may measure twice as much after a full blood meal. It is generally a mottled brownish-gray, has a hard leathery back, and when engorged, resembles a bean in shape and size.

WITHIN THE last couple of years, a small number of pajaroellos have also been found

ing man. It rarely causes discomfort at the time of attachment to the human victim, as its saliva contains a substance that deadens sensation in the area of operation. When feeding, it usually remains on the host for about 5 to 20 minutes, although occasionally the time extends to several hours.

Considerable pain and intense itching are not uncommon following the bite of the pajaroello. These reactions may occur before the tick drops off, soon afterwards, or may be delayed as much as 24 hours. If the individual is slightly allergic to the tick's saliva, the wound may start oozing serum within a few hours and a dark purple ring or eruption may appear around the affected area. Swelling may also be evident.

WHEN THE individual is especially sensitive to the pajaroello's saliva, however, a systemic reaction—such as occasionally happens in cases of bee sting—may appear as well.

This occurrence is fortunately quite rare.

First aid treatment consists of removing as much of the tick saliva from the wound as possible and this is done by suction, using the mouth or a suction apparatus for about five minutes. An antiseptic and a sterile dressing should then be applied if available. Incision of the bite is not recommended as it greatly adds to the danger of secondary infection, while irritation of the affected area by friction or scratching should be avoided.

In those cases where the tick is observed embedded in the skin, it should be removed with care. The use of heat or vaseline is sometimes effective in causing the little animal to loosen its hold, but a doctor should be consulted if the tick remains fastened to the skin.

PRECAUTIONS against pajaroello bites should be taken by those persons who go into tick-infested areas. High boots

and protective clothing are recommended, and tick repellents may also provide some protection. It is not considered advisable to rest or sleep in those places where the tick is likely to be found, for it is at such times of inactivity that the slow-moving tick maneuvers most successfully to attach itself to the host.

Whenever local or systemic complications occur following the bite of the pajaroello, medical advice should be obtained. In nearly all cases, however, the condition generally clears up in from four to six weeks.

Gage Enoch, fireman apprentice, USN, son of Mr. and Mrs. Carroll Enoch, of 2415 Grand Summit Rd., served aboard the heavy cruiser USS Los Angeles during Phase III of "Exercise Green Light" off the coast of California.

Highlight of the operation was a large scale amphibious landing by the First Marine Division in the Camp Pendleton area. The landing force was supported by an amphibious task force and aircraft.



ON AWARDS DAY . . . Members of the Girls Friendly Society at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church are shown following an awards program at the church Sunday afternoon. Among those present to receive symbols were Peggy Atkins, Christine Bundy, Susan Bundy, Wesley Davis, Debby Gallagher, Terri Gallagher, Carol Hammer, Bonnie Hollister, Georgianne Lamb, Kristina Marquard, Michelle Perrine, Patsy Perrine, Beverly Richards, Alice Rimmer, Cathy Shimmmin, Suzanne Whisnand, Cindy Wilson, and Kathleen Wilson. Senior GFS members cited included Marcia Lamb, Susan Shimmmin, Christina Schadt, and Louise Whisnand.



NIKKI LIVADA

. . . New Fireman

Livada Joins LA Fire Dept.

Nikki L. Livada, 249 W. 233rd St., Wilmington has joined the Los Angeles City Fire Department after an intensive eight weeks training course. The new fireman received his appointment on April 8.

Livada is the son of Thelma L. Mandotte, 3668 Newton St., and a graduate of Torrance High School, Class of 1951.

After training at the department's Drill Tower No. 3, Livada will be assigned to various companies throughout the city where he will gain practical experience in fighting fires of every kind.

Localites Get Degrees In Widespread Exercises

Area residents attending colleges and universities throughout the nation will receive degrees this week in annual commencement exercises.

Thirteen Torrance residents will receive Associate in Arts degrees in exercises at Harbor College tonight. They are William R. Burnes, Barbara A. Coston, Beatrice V. DuPrie, George R. Farquhar, Edward F. Gardiner, Paul R. Gentile, Jr., David U. Ito, Michael T. Kelly, Lloyd H. Nakatani, Vincent F. Spadoni, Robert I. Sudberg, Andrew O. Tindley, and Ronald E. Walters.

Also receiving AA degrees are Robert E. Bailek, Richard C. Bridge, Andrew L. Dugas, Richard D. Hammond, Gary C. Lambrigger, John P. Lavallee, Steven L. McClung, Stuart

Phillips, Charles N. Settles, and Richard F. Stehle, all of Lomita. Harbor City residents who will graduate include Jerry D. Alba, Marcel L. Derouin, William C. Anderson, Marguerite L. Carver, and Domenick L. Miretti.

MISS Barbara Hester, 3125 Opal St., received a Bachelor of Education degree in exercises at Occidental College.

Graydon R. Smart, 2122 Ca-brillo, completed his professional training at the Los Angeles College of Optometry and received his doctorate in annual exercises this week.

John L. Olsen, 5013 Cathann St., will be among a class of graduates at Fresno State College. He will receive the Master of Arts degree.

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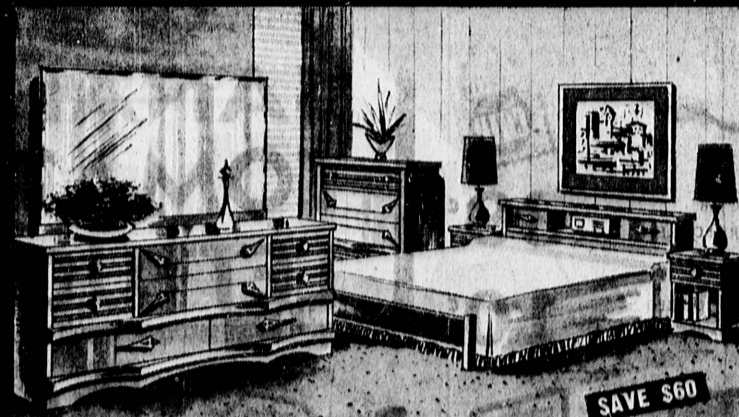


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